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United States Department of State

Washington, D. C. 20520

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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM
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TO: G - Mr. Wirth
FROM: H - Wendy R. Sherman
SUBJECT: Your Briefing on Rwanda for the House Africa Subcommittee,
Room 2200, Rayburn Bldg.
August 18, 1994, 2:00 p.m.

I. OBJECTIVE

1. Brief Members of key House committees on the current situation in Rwanda, eastern Zaire and Burundi
2. Outline U.S. political and diplomatic objectives and actions concerning Rwanda and Burundi
3. Retain support for U.S. policy toward Rwandan humanitarian assistance while assuring Congress of our concerns over mission creep and security for U.S. personnel.
4. Reassure Congress of US efforts to promote stability in Burundi.

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II. APPROACH

In an effort to consult more frequently with members of Congress on our policy toward Rwanda, the Administration has offered to brief members of the House and Senate on developments in Rwanda and Burundi. Because of a scheduling conflict, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Lee Hamilton (D-IN) will be unable to chair this session, although he will try to be there for part of the briefing. House Africa Subcommittee Chairman Harry Johnston (D-FL) will preside. All members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, the House Armed Services Committee and the Congressional Hunger Caucus have been invited. The briefing will be open to House staff and the public.

You should lead off with a discussion of U.S. policy and objectives in Rwanda and Burundi. George Moose will then discuss his recent trip to the region with a focus on Burundi. ✓ AID Deputy Administrator ^{PL}~~Carol~~ Lancaster will discuss the humanitarian efforts. A representative from the Department of Defense (DOD) at the DAS level will discuss military efforts. After the Administration's presentation, there will be questions from the House Members.

While the Hill strongly supports our humanitarian efforts in Rwanda, there are also deep concerns over mission creep and the danger to U.S. personnel in the region. Members on both

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sides of the aisle have criticized the Administration for the lack of consultation prior to the announcement of the deployment of military troops to Zaire and Rwanda. Additionally, they have expressed concern that the Administration is not speaking with one voice and that witnesses have been less than fully forthcoming on U.S. policy initiatives.

As one result, the Senate Appropriations Committee has delayed approval of DOD's \$75 million drawdown authority request. In a second action, a provision added by Senator Byrd to the Defense Appropriations Bill mandates an October 7 end to a US military role in Rwanda, and prohibits any mission other than "strict refugee relief" without further Congressional approval. It also provides only \$170 million in supplemental appropriations for DOD vice the \$270 million requested by the President. This language is not in the House version of the bill. Senators Byrd, Inouye, Hatfield and Stevens wrote to President Clinton on August 11 urging him to comply with the reporting requirements on their assumption that the Byrd language will become law. The October 7 cutoff deadline was at least partially motivated by the then-proposed October 7 Congressional adjournment date and by DOD testimony that the military mission probably would be completed by that date. The

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authorizing Committees have been less concerned about the funding issue than the appropriating Committees, but equally concerned about mission creep.

A conference on the DOD appropriations bill will take place in September. Administration efforts--including calls to the Hill by senior DOD officials--are underway to substantially alter the Byrd language in conference, but the calls have not been made because of the current White House/Congressional focus on crime and health care. You should not raise this issue, but be prepared to respond if the question arises. Talking points are at Tab A.

Representative Lantos has also written the Secretary to register his concern over the potentially explosive situation in Burundi. Although Lantos is in the hospital and will not attend the briefing, the issue is likely to be raised since other members share his fears.

The issue of radio broadcasts which inflame tensions has been raised repeatedly in the Senate, but has been of less concern in the House. Nevertheless, you should be prepared to reassure members that we are aware of the problem. We have encouraged the Governments of Burundi and Zaire to take steps to prevent these broadcasts and are looking at ways to increase technical capacity to counter such broadcasts.

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In your presentation and responses to questions, you will want to stress our support for the UNHCR-led humanitarian relief efforts to provide badly needed water, food, and medical care to the Rwandan refugees. You will also want to provide a clear statement of our goals, including:

- Save lives through an urgent humanitarian response.
Foster a truly broad-based government which will provide stability and respect the rule of law, thereby encouraging return of refugees and, ultimately, reconciliation.
- Deploy expanded UNAMIR to facilitate and oversee return of displaced persons and refugees, foster stability, and serve as a deterrent to further violence.
- Avoid the creation on Rwanda's borders of a permanent hostile Hutu diaspora which would be a continuing source of destabilization and possible future conflict.
- Ensure that the genocidal killers are brought to justice.
Encourage stability in Burundi.

Janean Mann from my office will accompany you to the briefing.

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